

**Council on Postsecondary Education**  
**March 24, 2006**

## **Statewide Diversity Study Status Report**

At its July 18, 2005, meeting, the Council on Postsecondary Education adopted the recommendation of its Committee on Equal Opportunities that the Commonwealth, in conjunction with the public postsecondary institutions, conduct an environmental scan (diversity study) to determine its compelling state interest, if any, to engage in diversity planning. An RFP has been prepared and is being reviewed by institutions before being issued by the Council to conduct the study.

The CEO began the process of developing a new statewide plan in June 2004. The institutional presidents appointed representatives to work with the Council staff during the planning process. The workgroup solicited information from experts to be used in developing a request for proposals to conduct the diversity study. Advice was sought from officials at the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin, and others regarding their experience with conducting statewide diversity studies.

The purpose of the diversity study is to examine and determine how to best structure policies and practices to maximize participation, access, and success for underrepresented minority groups in the Commonwealth. The study will ultimately determine whether the Commonwealth should continue its focus specifically on Kentucky resident African Americans or include other groups. Since Kentucky began its equal opportunity planning at the public postsecondary institutions, the focus has remained on one group, Kentucky resident African Americans, to remove remaining vestiges of de jure segregation that impacted their enrollment, retention, and graduation for many years. The CEO agreed to continue the current plan until the Office for Civil Rights informs Kentucky of its status under the Partnership Agreement.

### **Project Status and Next Steps:**

1. All institutions have reviewed the final draft request for proposals, confirmed their commitment to participate in the study, and identified their institutional representative to evaluate proposals.
2. The RFP was issued March 17, 2006, with selection of a vendor anticipated by July 2006.
3. The study, if undertaken, is expected to be completed and a final report given to the Committee on Equal Opportunities, the Council, and institutions by June 30, 2007.